

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:


We respectfully request that you include a \$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and a \$1 billion increase for Head Start and Early Head Start in the fiscal year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. These two programs are essential to our country's efforts to support parents' employment and help our children arrive at kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Child care fees are now often the highest or second highest cost in a family budget. In these challenging economic times, it is especially important to help families afford stable child care so parents can get and keep a job. Unfortunately, only about one in seven children eligible for Federal child care assistance receives help under the Child Care Development Block Grant. We urge you to include a \$1 billion increase in CCDBG so that we do not reduce the number of children currently served by this important program. High quality child care also contributes to children's school readiness: research finds that children from birth through age five in higher quality care score higher on assessments of cognitive skills, language ability, vocabulary, short-term memory and attention than children in lower quality care. CCDBG helps low-income families afford care that can support their children's development.

Head Start is central to our country's effort to help low-income children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. It combines early education, health care, social services, and nutrition services with a strong focus on parent involvement and support and builds on the strengths of local communities. A \$1 billion increase in Head Start will keep classrooms open and provide comprehensive support for the almost 65,000 children who receive Head Start and Early Head Start services as a result of the investments in ARRA.

Whether or not America's most vulnerable young children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our investment in these programs, and so, once again, we respectfully ask that you consider our request.

Sincerely,


George Miller

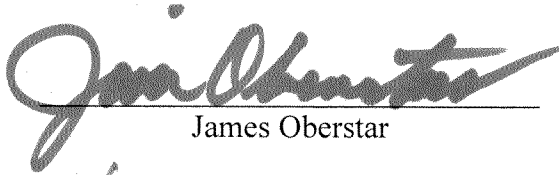

Dale E. Kildee



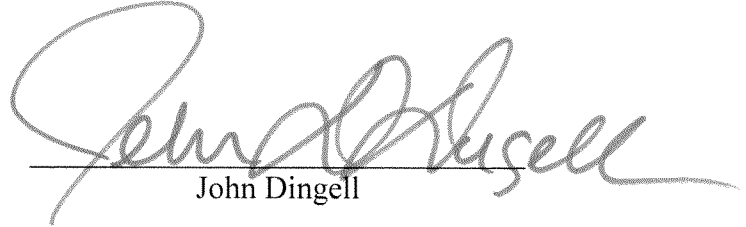
David Wu



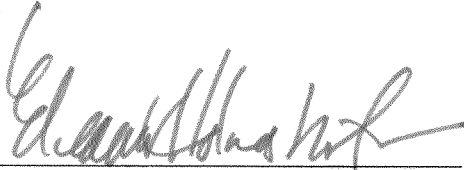
Mike Ross



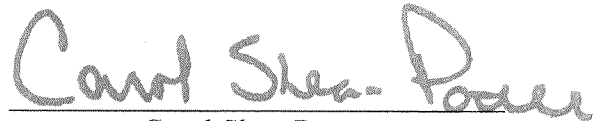
James Oberstar



John Dingell



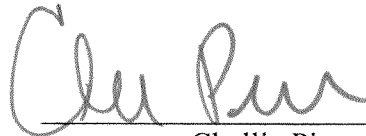
Eleanor Holmes Norton



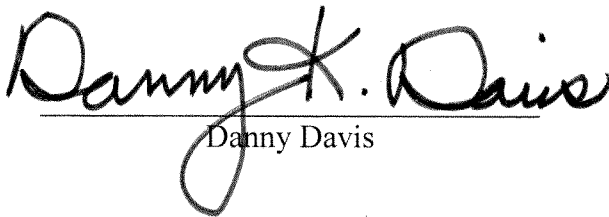
Carol Shea-Porter



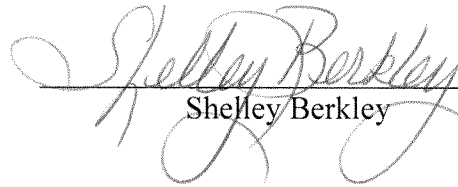
Mike Doyle



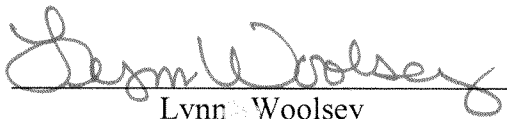
Chellie Pingree



Danny Davis



Shelley Berkley



Lynn Woolsey



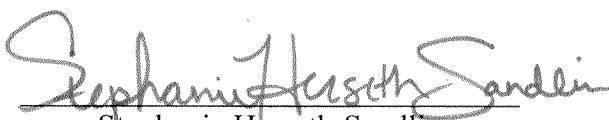
Joe Courtney



William Delahunt



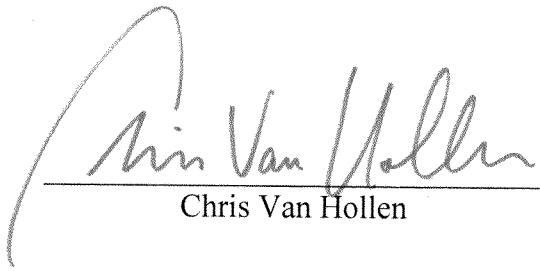
Barney Frank



Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin

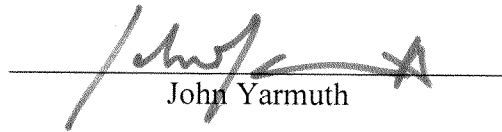


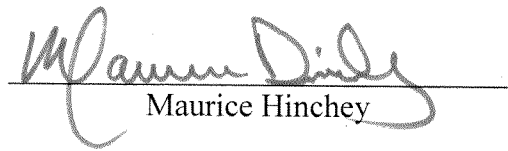
Albio Sires


Chris Van Hollen

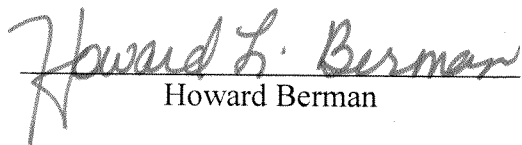

Rush Holt

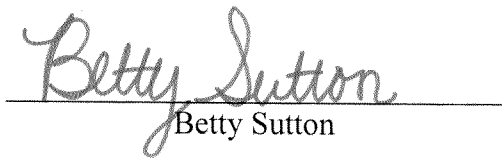

Eni Faleomavaega


John Yarmuth



Maurice Hinchey

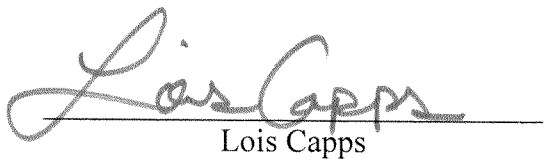

Michael Capuano


Howard Berman


Betty Sutton


Michael Michaud

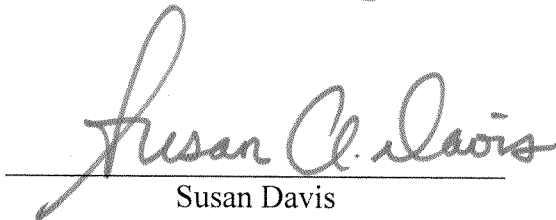

John Sarbanes


Lois Capps

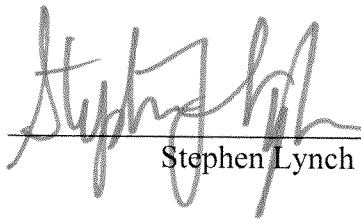

Joe Baca

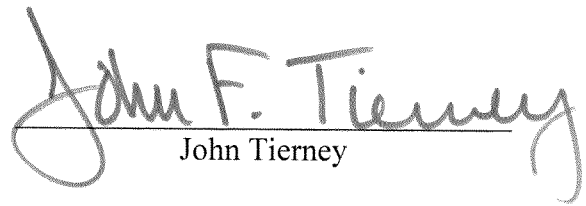

Jim Langevin


André Carson

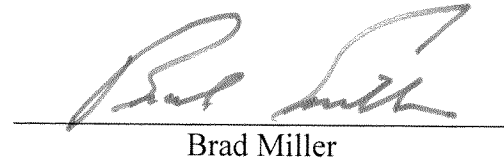

Susan Davis


Bill Owens


Stephen Lynch

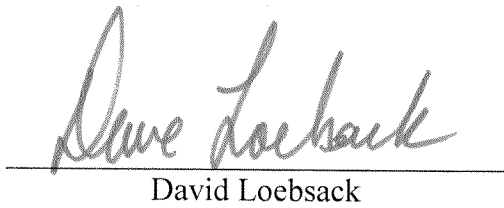

John Tierney


Jan Schakowsky


Brad Miller

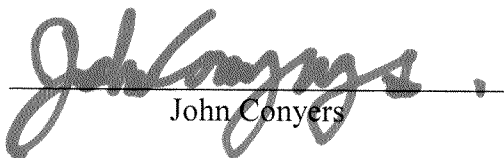

Judy Chu


Earl Blumenauer

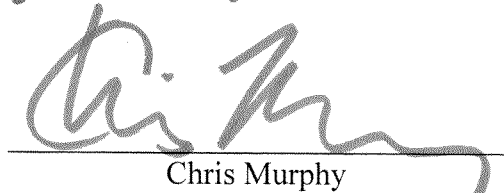

David Loebsack

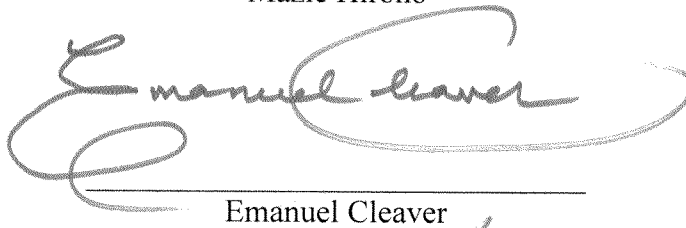

Bart Stupak

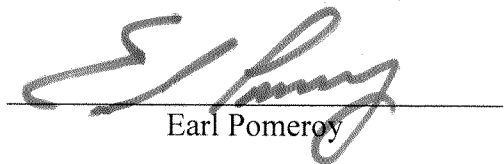

Pedro Pierluisi

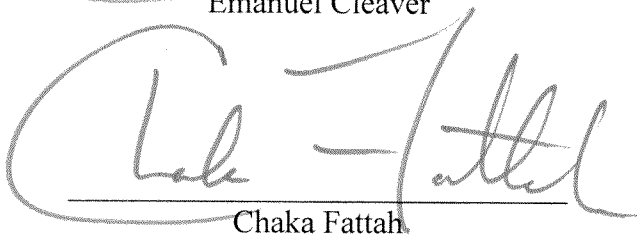

John Conyers

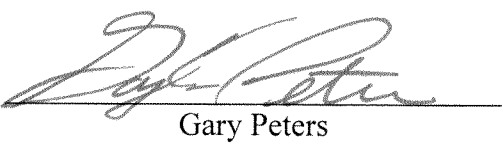

Mazie Hirono

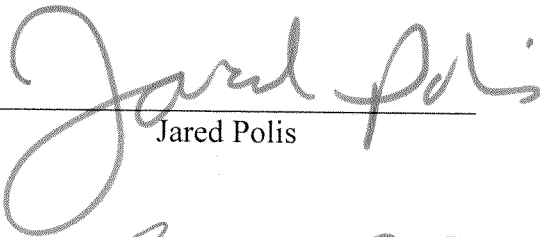

Chris Murphy

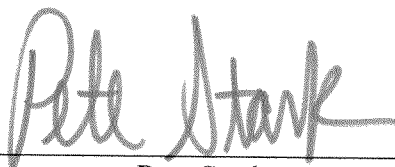

Emanuel Cleaver


Earl Pomeroy



Chaka Fattah

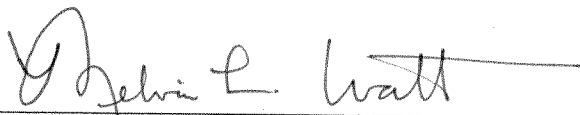

Gary Peters



Jared Polis

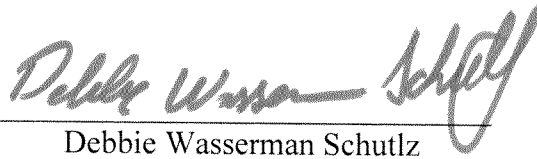

Pete Stark


Leonard Boswell


Alcee L. Hastings

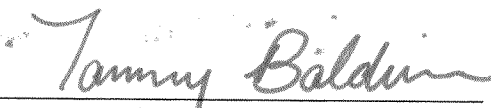

Mel Watt

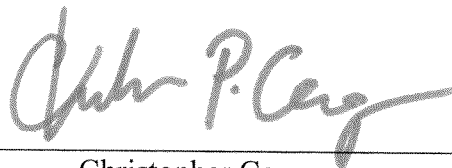

Robert "Bobby" Scott


Debbie Wasserman Schutlz


Jackie Speier

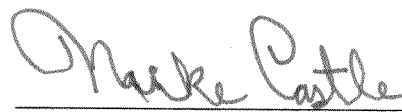

Rick Larsen

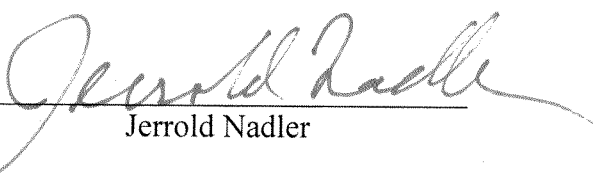

Tammy Baldwin


Christopher Carney


Dina Titus


Russ Carnahan


Michael Castle


Jerrold Nadler